

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5 1. A method of managing the transfer of parts stored in a secure area by a supplier to a customer via a computer network, the method comprising:

providing a storefront database including secure area inventory information;

10 providing a storefront server operably coupled to the storefront database and operably coupled to the computer network;

coupling a customer client to the storefront server via the computer network;

15 receiving secure area part reception information by the storefront server from the customer client via the computer network;

20 updating the secure area inventory information by the storefront server using the secure area part reception information;

receiving secure area part issuing information by the storefront server from the customer client via the computer network; and

25 updating the secure area inventory information by the storefront server using the secure area part issuing information.

30 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the secure area is located at a site controlled by the customer.

35 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the secure area is located at a neutral site.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

5 generating by the storefront server a new part invoice
when a new part is being issued according to the secure
area part issuing information; and

10 generating by the storefront server a fixed price
invoice for rebuilding a rotatable part core when a rotatable
part is being issued according to the secure area part
issuing information.

15 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the storefront database is
a neutral database.

20 6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

25 providing a customer profile database including
customer document customization information associated with
customer identification information;

30 receiving by the storefront server from the customer
client via the computer network customer identification
information;

35 retrieving by the storefront server from the customer
profile database customization information using the
customer identification information; and

40 generating by the storefront server customized
documents using the customization information.

7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

45 receiving by the storefront server from the customer
client via the communications network core return
information including a quantity of cores returned;

50 incrementing a core credit by the quantity of cores
returned;

55 receiving by the storefront server from the customer
client via the communications network rotatable part issue

information including a quantity of rotatable parts to issue; and
5 updating the secure area information if the quantity
of rotatable parts to issue is not greater than the core
credit quantity.

8. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
10 storing in-transit shipment information in the
storefront database, the in-transit shipment information
including a waybill number from a carrier for accessing
shipment status information from a carrier Web server;

15 receiving by the storefront server from a client via
the computer network an in-transit shipment query; and
generating by the storefront server an in-transit
document including a hypertext link to the carrier Web
server, the hypertext link comprising the waybill number.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
20 maintaining by the storefront server in the storefront
database a history of part transactions for a secure area;

25 receiving by the storefront server a part transaction
history request from a client via the computer network, the
part transaction history request including a part number;
and

generating by the storefront server a part history
report document using the history of part transactions and
the part number.

30 10. The method of claim 9, the part history report document
further including a link to an alternatively formatted part
history report document.

5 11. A method of managing the transfer of rotatable parts stored
in a secure area by a supplier to a customer via a computer
network, the method comprising:

10 providing a storefront database including secure area
inventory information, the secure area inventory
information including a customer rotatable part core credit
quantity;

15 providing a storefront server operably coupled to the
storefront database and operably coupled to the computer
network;

20 coupling a customer client to the storefront server
via the computer network;

25 receiving rotatable part core shipping information by
the storefront server from the customer client via the
computer network, the rotatable part core shipping
information including a quantity of rotatable part cores
shipped by the customer to the supplier;

30 incrementing the customer rotatable part core credit by
the quantity of rotatable part cores shipped by the customer
to the supplier;

35 receiving secure area rotatable part issuing
information by the storefront server from the customer
client via the computer network, the secure area rotatable
part issuing information including a quantity of rotatable
parts to be issued;

comparing the quantity of rotatable parts to be issued
to the customer rotatable part core credit; and

terminating a rotatable part issue transaction if the
quantity of rotatable parts to be issued is greater than the
customer rotatable part core credit.

5 12. A method of managing the transfer of parts stored in a secure area by a supplier to a customer via a computer network, the method comprising:

10 providing a storefront database including secure area inventory information, the secure area inventory information including in-transit and secure area on-hand inventory information;

15 providing a storefront server operably coupled to the storefront database and operably coupled to the computer network;

20 coupling a client to the storefront server via the computer network;

25 receiving by the storefront server from the client via the computer network a secure area inventory query request;

30 generating a secure area inventory report document including the in-transit and secure area on-hand inventory information.

35 13. The method of Claim 12, the secure area inventory report document further including a link to an alternatively formatted secure area inventory report document.

40 14. A data processing system adapted to manage transfer of parts stored in a secure area by a supplier to a customer via a computer network, comprising:

45 a processor; and

50 a memory operably coupled to the processor and having program instructions stored therein, the processor being operable to execute the program instructions, the program instructions including:

55 receiving secure area part reception information by the data processing system from a customer client via a computer network;

5 updating secure area inventory information stored
on a storefront database by the data processing system
using the secure area part reception information;

receiving secure area part issuing information by
the data processing system from the customer client
via the computer network; and

10 updating the secure area inventory information by
the data processing system using the secure area part
issuing information.

15 15. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the secure
area is located at a site controlled by the customer.

16. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the secure
area is located at a neutral site.

20 17. The data processing system of claim 14, the program
instructions further including:

generating by the data processing system a new part
invoice when a new part is being issued according to the
secure area part issuing information; and

25 generating by the data processing system a fixed price
invoice for rebuilding a rotatable part core when a rotatable
part is being issued according to the secure area part
issuing information.

30 18. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the
storefront database is a neutral database.

19. The data processing system of claim 14, the program
instructions further including:

5 receiving by the data processing system from the customer client via the computer network customer identification information;

accessing a customer profile database including customer document customization information associated with customer identification information;

10 retrieving by the data processing system from the customer profile database customization information using the customer identification information; and

generating by the data processing system customized documents using the customization information.

15 20. The data processing system of claim 14, the program instructions further including:

receiving by the data processing system from the customer client via the communications network core return information including a quantity of cores returned;

20 incrementing a core credit by the quantity of cores returned;

25 receiving by the data processing system from the customer client via the communications network rotatable part issue information including a quantity of rotatable parts to issue; and

updating the secure area information if the quantity of rotatable parts to issue is not greater than the core credit quantity.

30 21. The data processing system of Claim 14, the program instructions further including:

35 storing in-transit shipment information in the storefront database, the in-transit shipment information including a waybill number from a carrier for accessing shipment status information from a carrier Web server; and

5 receiving by the data processing system from a client via the computer network an in-transit shipment query; and generating by the data processing system an in-transit document including a hypertext link to the carrier Web server, the hypertext link comprising the waybill number.

10 22. The data processing system of claim 14, the program instructions further including:

15 maintaining by the data processing system in the storefront database a history of part transactions for a secure area;

20 receiving by the data processing system a part transaction history request from a client via the computer network, the part transaction history request including a part number; and

25 generating by the data processing system a part history report document using the history of part transactions and the part number.

30 23. The data processing system of claim 22, the part history report document further including a link to an alternatively formatted part history report document.

25 24. A data processing system adapted to manage transfer of rotatable parts stored in a secure area by a supplier to a customer via a computer network, comprising:

30 a processor; and

35 a memory operably coupled to the processor and having program instructions stored therein, the processor being operable to execute the program instructions, the program instructions including:

5 receiving rotatable part core shipping information by the data processing system from a customer client via a computer network, the rotatable part core shipping information including a quantity of rotatable part cores shipped by the customer to the supplier;

10 incrementing a customer rotatable part core credit by the quantity of rotatable part cores shipped by the customer to the supplier;

15 receiving secure area rotatable part issuing information by the data processing system from the customer client via the computer network, the secure area rotatable part issuing information including a quantity of rotatable parts to be issued;

20 comparing the quantity of rotatable parts to be issued to the customer rotatable part core credit; and

25 terminating a rotatable part issue transaction if the quantity of rotatable parts to be issued is greater than the customer rotatable part core credit.

25. A data processing system adapted to manage transfer of parts stored in a secure area by a supplier to a customer via a computer network, comprising:

30 a processor; and

35 a memory operably coupled to the processor and having program instructions stored therein, the processor being operable to execute the program instructions, the program instructions including:

40 receiving by the data processing system from a client via the computer network a secure area inventory query request;

45 accessing a storefront database in response to the secure area inventory query request, the storefront database including secure area inventory

information including in-transit and secure area on-hand inventory information;

5 generating a secure area inventory report document including the in-transit and secure area on-hand inventory information.

10 26. The data processing system of Claim 25, the secure area inventory report document further including a link to an alternatively formatted secure area inventory report document.

15 27. A computer readable media embodying computer program instructions for execution by a computer, the computer program instructions adapting a computer to manage the transfer of parts stored in a secure area by a supplier to a customer via a computer network, the computer instructions comprising:

20 receiving secure area part reception information by the computer from a customer client via a computer network;

25 updating secure area inventory information stored in a storefront database by the computer using the secure area part reception information;

30 receiving secure area part issuing information by the computer from the customer client via the computer network; and

35 updating the secure area inventory information by the computer using the secure area part issuing information.

28. The computer readable media of claim 27, the computer program instructions further comprising:

generating by the computer a new part invoice when a new part is being issued according to the secure area part issuing information; and

5 generating by the computer a fixed price invoice for rebuilding a rotatable part core when a rotatable part is being issued according to the secure area part issuing information.

10 29. The computer readable media of claim 27, the computer program instructions further comprising:

receiving by the computer from the customer client via the computer network customer identification information;

accessing by the computer a customer profile database including customer document customization information associated with customer identification information;

retrieving by the computer from the customer profile database customization information using the customer identification information; and

generating by the computer customized documents using the customization information.

15 30. The computer readable media of claim of claim 27, the computer program instructions further comprising:

receiving by the computer from the customer client via the communications network core return information including a quantity of cores returned;

incrementing a core credit by the quantity of cores returned;

receiving by the computer from the customer client via the communications network rotatable part issue information including a quantity of rotatable parts to issue; and

30 updating the secure area information if the quantity of rotatable parts to issue is not greater than the core credit quantity.

31. The computer readable media of claim of claim 27, the
computer program instructions further comprising:

5 storing in-transit shipment information in the
storefront database, the in-transit shipment information
including a waybill number from a carrier for accessing
shipment status information from a carrier Web server; and

10 receiving by the computer from a client via the
computer network an in-transit shipment query; and

generating by the computer an in-transit document
including a hypertext link to the carrier Web server, the
hypertext link comprising the waybill number.

32. The computer readable media of claim of claim 27, the
computer program instructions further comprising:

15 maintaining by the computer in the storefront database
a history of part transactions for a secure area;

20 receiving by the computer a part transaction history
request from a client via the computer network, the part
transaction history request including a part number; and

25 generating by the computer a part history report
document using the history of part transactions and the
part number.

33. The computer readable media of claim 32, the part history
report document further including a link to an
alternatively formatted part history report document.

30 34. A computer readable media embodying computer program
instructions for execution by a computer, the computer
program instructions adapting a computer to manage the
transfer of rotatable parts stored in a secure area by a
supplier to a customer via a computer network, the computer
35 instructions comprising:

5 receiving rotatable part core shipping information by the computer from a customer client via the computer network, the rotatable part core shipping information including a quantity of rotatable part cores shipped by the customer to the supplier;

10 incrementing a customer rotatable part core credit by the quantity of rotatable part cores shipped by the customer to the supplier;

15 receiving secure area rotatable part issuing information by the computer from the customer client via the computer network, the secure area rotatable part issuing information including a quantity of rotatable parts to be issued;

20 comparing the quantity of rotatable parts to be issued to the customer rotatable part core credit; and

25 terminating a rotatable part issue transaction if the quantity of rotatable parts to be issued is greater than the customer rotatable part core credit.

35. A computer readable media embodying computer program instructions for execution by a computer, the computer program instructions adapting a computer to manage the transfer of parts stored in a secure area by a supplier to a customer via a computer network, the computer instructions comprising:

30 receiving by the computer from a client via the computer network a secure area inventory query request;

35 generating a secure area inventory report document including the in-transit and secure area on-hand inventory information.

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36. The computer readable media of claim 35, the secure area
5 inventory report document further including a link to an
alternatively formatted secure area inventory report
document.

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